# DEFENSIO PRINCIPIS CURLANDIÆ

Suecorum Calumniis opposita.

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#### VINDICATION

OF

The DUKE of CURLAND against the Swedish Calumnies.

LONDON,

Printed for Simon Miller at the Star in Pauls Church-yard, 1658.

## DEFENSIO Principis CURLANDIÆ Suecorum Calumniis apposita.

Danis vix citius initam quam fractam; post Transilvania Principem inter hostes, contra sidem datam, destitutum; post temerata denique ubivis locorum
Divina, humanaque Jura, nemini forté novum aut mirum videbitur, jussu Regis Suecia, Principem Curlandia,
licet Medii sen Neutralis in hoc bello conditionem identidem pactus erat, & sapius magna argenti vi redemerat, in Domo sua per insidias captum, barbaricum in modum cum Uxore, septemque liberis, Rigam abductum
esc.

Caterum quoniam ea in pacatum Principem admissa, qua nec in hoste locum haberent, in Matronam insigni pietate praclarisque Virtutibus summum inter sæminas locum morentem, nist nativitas dedisset, eamque partui vicinam; in liberos Principales, plerosque infantes, atque atate, ut Parentes, vità innocentissimos, designata sunt: ipsis hac Suecis talia sunt visa, ut non sine excusatione aut desensione Orbique patesieri deberent: Sed qua Dei benignitas atque fustitia est, vix alii innocentiam Optimorum Principum illustriorem reddunt, quam qui vel maximé oppugnant.

Dicunt equidem quod libet qui causam hanc agunt, &.
tamen apparet summo studio nihil fingi potuisse, quo tanta
rei indignitas vel excusaretur. Fac vera esse qua com-

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### VINDICATION Of the Duke of Curland against the Swedish Calumnies.

Fter the Violation of the Polonion Truce, breaking of the newly Concluded Peace with Denmarck, destitution of the Transilvanian Prince, in the midst of his Enemies, contrary to Engagement; yea, after the Universal prophanation and contempt of Divine and Humane Lawes every where: No body (likely) will think it any great wonder or novelty, that by Command of the same King of Sweden, the illustrious Duke of Curland (notwithstanding his Highnesse had in the beginning of the late Polish War, agreed upon a perpetual Neutrality, and since was forc't ost-times to redeem and buy the same again with a vast Treasure,) was persidiously surprized in his own Castle, and in a most barbarous manner (together with his Dutchesse and seven Infant Children)

carried away caprive to Riga.

Moreover, Whereas such things were committed against a Peaceable Prince, which would not have place in an Enemy: Against a Princesse, (who sor her unparallel'd Piety, and most illustrious Vertues, (to say nothing of her Birth) may justly claim the the highest place among Women) drawing near the time of her Delivery: Yea, against his Princely Children, almost all Insants, and most innocent in their age, as their Parents in their lives. It seemes they have appeared to the Swedes themselves, to be of that nature, as that they ought not to be published to the world, without some kinde of excusation or desence: But such is the infinite Benignity and Justice of our God, that hardly any other could have demonstrated or manifelted more brighter, the spotlesse Innocence of these best of Princes, then the most unjust opposers of the same.

Those

tibus, qua veritati debetur; nihil hic invenies, quod innocentia Principium prajudicare, aut Suecorum facto vel
minimum Justitia affricare posset colorem. Nimirum
jungi potest justitia maledicentia, nec tamen hac malos

reddere potest, aut reos, quos illa miseros effecit.

Quod ipsum patebit audienti hos Oratores, qui causam hanc dum defendunt, produnt. Caput accusationis eft, Uxorem Principis suasisse Fratri suo Electori Brandenburgico, ut cum Polonia Rege, cujus olim vafallus ipfe fuerat, maritus autem adhuc erat, in gratiam rediret. Adeò nec dicta nec confilia familiarium impunia sunt, & illa quider Uxoris, in caput Mariti expetunt, atque hic luat necesse est, que illa admisit. Crodo, his arbitris, merito pro hoste habendum, cujus Uxor alibi, ipso absente & inscio, pacis consilia, inter cognatos, quibusque amorem atque reverentiam debebat, commendavit. Scilicet quam à Des continuis precibus ipsis efflagitare, pium fucrat, crimen suiset suadere. Sed nihil eam hic egisse, si Electori Sancté hoc asserenti non creditur, credere ipsis rerum argumentis necesse est. Involverat illum Rex Suecia bello Polonico; gliscebat mox Danicum, & successit. Autor Regi fuit Elector, ut, quod proclive iph erat, & gloriosam sibi ut, & utilem cum Polonis iniret pacem, Danicos vero motus aquis averteret conditionibus; sed frustrà fuit, ad eum gloria campum quasi remissus eo ampliorem, quò pluribus insideretur hostibus. Ergo Rex in Holfatiam movet, & fæderatos, Electorem, Transilvanumg, hostibas tantum non obrutos deserit. Exuitur bic Exercitu, & adbuc periculum eft, ut Principatu fortunisque excidat omnibus. Expugnatur Cracovia, occurrunt imminentque Electori Exercitus Polonici, Auxiliaresque Austriaci atque Cosaci; à Suecis Suppetia nulla. Hic Electorem nec mala, nec pericula,

Those who patrocinate this cause speak (indeed) their full, pleasure, and yet it appears, that with all their study and Industry, they have been uncapable to forge any thing, whereby so great an indignity might be rendred in the least excusable. Suppose all their manifest forgeries in this businesse to be true, and attribute that Faith (which is due to the truth) to their frivolous pretences, yet you will find nothing at all in them, that either can be any waies prejudicous to the Innocency of the Duke and Dutchesse, or yet give any the least colour of Justice to that inhumane action of the Swedes. Besides, to the said notorious injustice, may be also added the slanderous aspersions, which yet will not be able to render those either bad or guilty,

whom they have made miserable.

And this will clearly appear, to him that hears these Orators speak, who striving to defend this cause do betray the same. The head of the Accusation, is, That the Duke's Lady, did perswade her Brother, the Prince Elector of Brandenborgh, to reconcile himself to the King of Poland's Majesty, whose vasfall he had eretimes been, and to whom he ftill stood engaged. ter this rate, neither the words nor counsels of familiar friends are unpunishable; yea, even those of a Wife, would exact the head of her Husband, and he were to suffer for what she commited. I believe that (according to the Opinion of these Arbitrators) that man may lawfully be termed an enemy, whose Wife in his absence, and unknown to him, hath otherwhere made good overtures for, and endeavoured the Recommendation of Beace betwixt her nearest Friends and Kinred, to whom she owed love and reverence: and that it is a crime to counsell or recommend Peace, when it is godly and most commendable, by incessant fervent Prayers to beg the same of God. But, that the faid Princesse did nothing of this nature (if we will not believe the Prince Elector, religiously afferting the same ) yet must we give credit to the Arguments of the matter it felf. The King of Sweden having involved the said Elector in the Polonian War, and the Danish suddainly creeping in thereupon, and succeeding; his Electoral Highnesse advised the said King to make up ( as he eafily might) a Peace both glorious and profitable for himfelf, with the Poles, and to divert the Danish motions with equitable Conditions, but all in vain; the faid Elector being (as it were) pericula, nes remedia pravidere potuisse putabimus? E (quod unicum restabat) pacem eum Polonis non confecisse, nisi Soror submonuerit? Fudicet qui velit, ecquis Electori illam persuaserit, E an non à Rege Suecia Ipso proficiscatur, quod Optima Principi tanquam crimen

reputant?

Sed intercesit Principi, inquiunt, familiaritas insignis cum Gonzievio, & litteris hinc inde meantibus, quas partim Principis Ministros scripsisse perhibent, effectum, ut Anno 1656. Lithuanis eorumque vicinis Copia Suecia, qua illic locorum erant, in manus quasi traderentur. Cum Gonsievio Principi agendum erat, tanquam cum vicino amico, Regis sui Ministro, & egit; ita tamen, ut conditionis sua memor esset, & observantia erga Dominum, & Neutralitatis, quam vocant, Leges integra semper sibi constarent. Nec unquam produci possunt litera Principis, aut Ipso indigna, aut rerum statui, quem diximus, parum convenientes: quid egerint scripserintque Ministri, viderint ipsi, Principis hic nulla est culpa. Caterum cum Sueci Lithuanos & Samogitas pessime haberent, & dispersi interim securique inter eos agerent, an, quod immanissima facta extorserunt, ad quod opportunitas invitavit, statui in Suecos non potnit nisi Autore Curlandia Duce? Nec hostes suos Lithuani cernere poterant focis assidentes, lateribusque harentes, nisi Curlandia Duce ex longinquo demonstrante?

Imputatur præterea, quod Magno Museoviæ Duci consilia & rationes capiendæ Rigæ unà cum commeatu suppeditarit Princeps Curlandiæ, idque egerit, ut Serenissimi Angliæ, &c. Protectoris studium pacus inter Muscos
& Suecos conficiendæ à Moschis repudiaretur, quod sinistras de Suecis opiniones Legato Anglico insinuaverit, denique quod Polonis Moschos conciliare, hos verò Suecis
infensiores

fent back by the King with derifion, to that height of glory held fo much more ample and illustrious, by how much more enemies he was furrounded; and so the King moves towards Holstein, deserting his Confederates the Elector, and Trasilvanian Prince, even in a manner overwhelmed by the Ettemy. Whereupon he of Transilvania, shortly after was deprived of his Army, and to this hour, runs hazard of the totall losse of his Country and Fortunes; the City of Cracevia was recovered; and the Prince Elector immediately (quasi) surrendred by the threatning formidable Armies of the Confederate Poles, Austrians, and Coftacks, being altogether left destitute of the least hopes of succour from the Swedes. And can we think that all this while, the faid P. Eletter could foresee neither Evils, nor Perils, nor Remedies? And that (which only was remaining) he could not have had thoughts of a Peace with the Poles, without the Admonition of his Sifter? Judge whomsoever, who it was that perswaded the Elector thereunto, and whether it proceeds not from the King of Sweden himself, what is as a Crime imputed unto our most Vertuous Princesse.

But (they fay) the Duke kept great intimacy with Gonzie. mky, and, that by interchangeable Letters ( which partly they affert to have been written by the Duke's Ministers ) it hath been brought to passe, that in the Year 1656, the Swedish Forces in those parts, were (in a manner) betrayed into the hands of the Lithuanians and their Neighbours. The Duke was forced to (and did indeed) Treat with Gonziemsky, as with a Neighbouring Friend, and the Ministers of his King; yet so, as that he was altogether mindful! of his Condition, and how much it behooved him Sacredry and Inviolably to preferve no leffe the Laws of Neutrality, then the respect due to his Lord. Nor can ever any Letters of the Dake be produced, either noworthy of himself, or in the least contrarying the premised State of affairs; what the Ministers have either done or written. they themselves must answer, the Prince for his part, is herein most innocent. Moreover, when the Swedes most basely treated the Lithuanians and Samogitians, and yet in the mean time, were fecurely and confusedly dispersed among them, could not that, which their most horrid actions did extorte from, and whereunto the fairest opportunity invited the said Lithnanians,

be.

infensiores reddere annisus: atque in eo fuerit ut Serenissimo Electori Brandenburgico trium millium suppetias mitteret.

Utinam vero, ut ab ultimis ordiamur, tot habuisset Dux milites, atque abduci potuiset amicorum monitis, ut hac vià securitati sua prospiceret; non tam opportunus Suecorum injuriis fuisset, & haberet forsan optimus Princeps Domum suam bonaque omnia intacta. Nunc fiducia pollicitationum regiarum unicé securo, milite destituto, cum militum copia adhuc objiciatur, vix acerbius candori ac innocentia illudi posset atque insultari. Consilia autem ut suggereret Magno Muscovia Duci nunquam Ipsi opportunitas suit, nec ut quicquam persuaderet authoritas. Commeatum si Moschi exegerunt, exegerunt & Sueci & Poloni. Damnum passus ab omnibus, injuriam nemini secit. Infortunium illud miseratione dignum, culpa

adnumerandum non fuerat.

Pacem inter Moschos, Polones, Snecos, omnesque denique Vicinos optavit amantisimus pacis Princeps, & cujus eam confieri intererat, si promovere non potuit, nullibi certe turbavit. Populos cum Populis committere non Illius sunt artes; qui tranquillitatem sibi suam non nisi Vicinorum omnium concordià constare intelligit: cujus omnes ex aquo observare, & humanitate eum singulis decertare, non armis. Hoc vero studium, hanc mentem Principi fuisse Ipse Anglicus testabitur Legatus, quem, quibus potnit humanitatis officiis, per aliquot menses Princeps prosequatus est, & comiter habuit, non modo quod peregrinus aut quia ab amico, sed comprimis quod pacis interpres venerat. Atqui ille ipfe, inquiunt, pessimis quibusque de Suecis opinionibus in Curlandia imbutus est. Nimirum que conscientia vera arguit, etsam dieta creduntur. Sed fi Suecis quibusdam mala mens, oportetne propterea Cerlandia Principios impurum be executed upon the Smedes, but by Instinction of the Duke of Curland? And could not they see their Enemies, when sitting at their fire sides, and hanging upon their very backs, except the Duke of Curland had afar off pointed at the m?

It is further imputed, that the Duke did give Counfell and Directions to the great Duke of Muscowy, for the taking of Riga, together with Supplies for his Army; as also, that he did effect (or cause) that his most Serene Highnesse the Lord Protector's of England, &c. endeavoures for Peace betwixt the Muscowites and Swedes, were rejected by the said Muscowites: That he did infinuate sinister Opinions of the Swedes to the Ambassadour of England: And lastly, that he did endeavour to reconcile the Poles and Muscowites, but to render these more incensed against the Swedes; yea, that he was upon it, to have sent a succour of 3000 men of his own, to the most Serene Prince Elector of

Brandenburgh.

It were to be wished ( to begin with the last ) that the Duke had had fuch a number of Forces, and could have been induc'd and disposed by all the seasonable Admonitions of his Friends, to have provided for his own security that way; he would not then have been so lyable and obnoxious to the Swedish injuries. but perhaps (Good Prince) have preserved his House and Eflate incire and fafe to this hour: whereas now, Integrity and Innocency could hardly be more cruelly eluded and infulted over. then to object a numerous Power of Forces to him, who, securely relying upon, and only confiding in the Royal Promises, was altogether destitute of Souldiers. As for his (pretended) suggested Counsels to the great Duke, he neither ever had opportunity thereunto, nor yet authority to perswade any thing. If the Muscovites exacted passage and free quarters, the Swedes and Poles exacted no lesse; he suffered Dammage by all, but did Injury to none. This misfortune had been more worthy of pitty then of punishment.

A Peace betwixt the Muscovites, Poles, Swedes, and all other his Neighbours, the Prince (as a most perfect Peace Lover) did cordially wish, and being so much concerned in the confection of the same, if he could not promote; yet leastwise, he was farre from (any where) perturbing or obstructing it. To stir up Nation against Nation, are not his Practises, who understands

purum atque maledicum esse? Sed regrediamur unde di-

greßi sumus.

Pone hac ita se habere, cum tamen Serenisima Princeps in litteris ad Electorem Brandenburgicum Fratrem fuum Deo teste afsirmet, causa in conscientia Tribunali dicta, nullam se deprehendere pose in se suisque culpam, nisi quod, cum nihil mali patrassent, nihil mali metuerent, nimiumque confisi essent Christianismum & Evan-

gelicamD octrinam professis.

Largiamur autem hoc hostibus, Principes, pactorum observantissimos, & quos sua pietas, probitas atque conditio facilé absolvit, & ista que objiciunt illi, & graviora, si placet, commisisse; Postquam novis cum Suecici Exercitus Prafecto, Vetera Neutralitatis pacta confirmata, non sime coaqulo amicitia, quo opus est cum isto hominum genere, transigentibus, pecunia scilicet prasentanea, ægre a Principe confecta, & vero pauca admodum hora inter conventionem hanc initam, & eruptionem in Arcem Principis factam intercesserunt, atque adeo Sueci omne erimen, quod in Principe vel fingi pofset, sive dederunt, sive occuparunt ipsi, nullius Eum acculari posse, nemo deinceps dubitaverit. Alia igitur omvine sint necesse est, que ad hoc triste malum Domui Curlandia acc lerandum, Regem Suecia impulerint. Et sunt qui putant agrè Illum Electori Brandenburgico facere voluisse, quod cum armis validum, nec fraudibus opportunum amplius invadere non potuerit, inermes invaserit. Dolet equidem Elector tristem suorum casum, & dolent optim: quique; sed solatur Ipsum Eorundem innocentia juxta ac Divina Justitia, que & coronare illam prosperrimo etiam malorum eventu, hostes verò Ipsius ita habere solet, ut ubique & benignum Patrem & severum se ostendat Judicem. Novit talia patrantes hoc citius Vindictam provocare Divinam, camque acristands his own Tranquility and Preservation to depend only from his Neighbours generall Concordance and Unanimity, and whom it behooves to give equal respect to all, and rather to winne the heart of every one with Civility, then by force of Armes. Now, that this hath been the reall mind and endeavours of the Duke, the English Ambassadour himself, cannot but witnesse, whom the Duke did prosecute with all possible demonstrations of Civility, and entertained most lovingly for many Moneths together, not only for being a stranger, or the Minister of a potent Friend, but chiefly for coming as a Peace-Maker. But he, himself (they say) was possest with most finistrous Opinions of the Swedes in Curland; as if, what Conscience doth but argue to be true, must be granted to be spoken also. But if any of the Swedes have an ill heart, must it therefore follow that the mouth of the Duke of Curland is impure and slanderous? But let us return from whence we have made a Digreffion.

Suppose all these things to be so, notwithstanding that the Serene Dutchesse in her Letters to the Prince Elector her Brother (taking God to witnesse, and having pleaded and discussed the Cause, in the Tribunal of her own Conscience) doth sacredly affirm, That she cannot find any other fault in her self or hers, but, that having committed no ill, and therefore not searing any, they had too much consided in those that make profession

of Christianity and Evangelical Religion.

But let us ( I fay ) grant this to the enemy, that those Princes ( the most Religious Observers of their Compacts, and whom their very Piety, Godlinesse, and Condition alone doth easily abfolve ) have committed all these objected Crimes, and yet more grievous ones, if they please; yet after that the old agreement of Neutrality was again renewed and confirmed, with the Generall of the Swedish Army (not without a cementation of friendship, which they that mean to transact with such kind of people, must ever have ready at hand; I mean ready money, but newly, with much ado, raised by the Duke: ) and (as is manifest) but very few hours interceding betwixt the making of the faid Covenant, and immediate ensuing irruption into the Castle of the said Dake; in as much as the Swedes must either have taken away, or else anticipated themselves, all the Crimes that can possibly be forged against his Highnesse; No man ( furely ) B 2

orem, quo innocentiores laferint. Alii situm Curlandia Mari Balthico imminentis illius Dominium affectanti salivam movisse putant; Caterum cum accessio vinea Nabothi res Achabi parum auxerit, optimi quig, expectant, quis Regni non unius affectati, Principatus non unius erepti tandem finis exitusque futurus. Et vidimus jam Justitia Divina non tardan. tis argumentum. Nam cum 28 die Octobris Principes. Curlandia in caviivitatem abducerentur, luce que fecuta est, proximà, pauca fæderati Belgii Naves, (pleraque enim in conflictu non fuère) Suecis quibusdamexustis, quibu (dam captis, nonnullis (ubmersis, effecerunt, ut Haffnie obsidio solveretur, & Orbis videret Illos, qui, cum Maris Dominium jactent, minimam ejus partem, fretum dico Danicum, licet Castella utrique imminentia littori insiderent, defendere non potuerunt: scilicet, qui in Dania Liberatorem se atque innocentia Kindicem probavit, hostiumque superbiam fregit, idem & aliis sub idem tempus Injurtam pakis, præterque meritum afflictis aderit, sine dubio, fine mora: Illi sit laus & gloria in saculis,&c.

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(furely) can believe, that after all this, the laid Duke can junly be accused of any thing. There must then be other Reasons which moved and impulsed the King of Sweden to accelerate and haften this deplorable misfortune unto the House of Curland. And indeed, there are, that think that he did it, to vex and fpight the P. Elector of Brandenborgh, in that, when he was not able to invade him ( who was now too powerfull in Armes, and more wary of being circumvented then heretofore ) he did overpower the unarmed and uncapable of Resistance. The P. Elettor indeed, deplores the hard fate of his Friends, and all honest hearts condole with them: But their unspotted innocence doth powerfully mitigate and allay his forrow, as also the infinite Justice of God, which is wont generally to Crown the same with a most prosperous iffue even of the affliction it self: and contrarily to behold the Enemies thereof with fuch an eye, as doth every where witnesse him no lesse a most Severe Judge and Avenger, then a tender and gracious Father: He knows that those that commit such enormous Actions, do but so much the more speedily provoke, ripen, and augment the just vengeance of the Lord, by how much brighter the Innocence of the oppressed party appeares. Others think, that the commodious situation of Curland, upon the Baltique, made the teeth of him, that affects the Dominion thereof, to water. But as the acquisition of Naboth's Vineyard yeelded but small increase to the Eflate of wicked Ahab, so also all good people, expect to see what will be the end and iffue of the affectation of more then one Kingdom, and violent ereption of more then one Dukedome and Principality. And indeed, we have already beheld an eminent sign of the (not retarding) Justice of God, in that, the very next day after the barbarous carrying away of the Princes of Curland into Captivity, being the 28th of October, a few Ships of the United Neatherland States (the most of the Fleet not having been engaged in the fight ) did, by the burning of some, taking others, and finking not a few Swedish Ships, most happily effectuate the raising of the Seige of Copenhagen, and cause the world to smile in beholding those, that did boast the Dominion of the Sea, uncapable (notwithstanding the two imminent Castles upon either fide of the Shoare ) to defend or maintain the most inconsiderable part of the same,

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wiz. the Danish Sound. And even so, we trust, that the same God that hath approved himself the gracious Deliverer of Denmark, and just Avenger of oppressed Inhocency (having broken the most insolent pride of the Enemy) will also in his own due time, be present with, and powerfully deliver those, who about the same time, have suffered the same Injuries, and been wrongfully afflicted with others. To him be praise and glory for ever and ever.

#### An Authentique Copy

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#### ASSECURATION

Given unto his Highnesse the Duke of Curland, by the Commander of the Swedish Forces in Livonia, Generall Douglas (after the late Renewing, and Solemne Confirmation of the formerly Concluded perpetual Neutrality, betwixt the King of Sweden and his said Highnesse) in the Name of the said King, under his own hand and Seal, which notwithstanding, after the Duke had given a vast Summe of Money, and great store of Provisions unto the said Douglas; and so on his part, had performed all and every the Particulars of the said (enforced) Covenant of Renovation, was immediately most unworthily violated by him, by falling upon,

upon, and seizing his Highnesses Person and Family, in manner as the Precedent Paper doth largely relate.

By me Robert Douglas, Privy Counfellor, General Field Marshall, and Counsellor of War to his Majesty of Sweden, Earl of Schoning, Lord of Schelby, &c.

THereas for the Subfistance of his Majesty of Sweden, my most gracious King and Master's Army, a confiderable quantity both of Money and Provisions hath been anew Promised, Granted, and Allowed by his Princely Highnesse, the Duke of Curland, his Council and States, for his Highnesse Dukedomes, the Stift Pylten, and whole Territories, witnesse his Highnesse Reverse given for that purpose. I therefore, in the Name of my faid most gracious King, do in liew thereof, faithfully Promise, Engage, and fully Assure the said Duke, that his Highnesse, with his whole Countrey and Subjects, as also the Stift Pylten (none, besides those who have made themselves unworthy of the said Benefit, excepted) shall remain fully Assured of, and be secured in the Neutrality formerly Granted his Highnesse by his faid Royal Majesty; as also be wholly freed of all manner of Hostile Attentations, Invasions, Free Quarterings, Contributions, and all other Executions, Robberies, and Depredations what soever, &c. In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto put my own hand and Seal, this 19th of September, 1658.

FINIS. R. Donglas.

upon, and failing his High affice P eli és rendrana já By me Robert Donglas, Pri Counseller of Far to His No. 1.V Wing ? is to the Medical Control of the Medical Cont they had Properly the transfer of the office of Dana, that is Elighnanies and the whole Courage Cinition of the contraction of the contractions in in the contract of the cont erraines) that femer 13 leak o bould the Month to Diame, in Cronted his Helin laid Royal Wayahiy es calo i eminally is a ca ner, or Aloftele Briener, or a favorious, fire Orario Calculations and all celegr Unscarious Roble Deprecations whether to See In Tellimony wil I have heavened put my own hand, and Sool, di S. Winder : 658.

